

Kapi`olani Community College:
Review of ***DRAFT***
Participatory Governance Policy

presented to representatives from the

Faculty Senate, Staff Council,
Student Congress, and Kalāualani

by
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Sec. I. Participatory Governance: *Purpose*

- Participatory governance reflects a general commitment on the part of Kapi`olani Community College faculty, staff, students, and administration to work together to strengthen and enhance the College by making decisions about institutional mission, policies and budget priorities through *participatory processes*.
- This policy affirms the College's commitment to the fundamental principles of *participatory governance*, which will guide the development of institution-specific participatory governance practices consistent with this policy.

Sec. III. Participatory Governance: *Definitions and Clarifications*

- A. Definitions:
 - Governance is the way that issues affecting the entire institution, or one or more components thereof, are decided.
 - Participatory governance is the act of *collegial* decision-making.
 - Collegial decision-making is the process of *enabling* constituencies, through *consultation and/or discussion*, to participate in giving input to affect decisions made at Kapi`olani Community College.

Sec. III. Participatory Governance: *Definitions and Clarifications*

- B. Clarifications:
 - Participatory Governance *does not* take away the authority invested in decision-makers to make decisions. Many leadership decisions are *embedded* in various positions of authority throughout the College.
 - Participatory Governance is the process by which leaders and decision makers *exchange ideas* with those affected by decisions.
 - The entire College is *committed* to a participatory governance policy and all embedded leaders are to consider this policy in their areas of decision-making.

Sec. III. Participatory Governance: *Definitions and Clarifications*

- Participatory Governance dictates that individuals will have an *opportunity* to participate in decision-making.
 - Individuals may participate by voicing opinions, voting, making recommendations, investigating, writing reports, evaluating leaders, serving as consultants, leading forums, attending forums, serving on senates, councils, committees, and advisory groups. This is not an exclusive list.

Sec. III. Participatory Governance: *Definitions and Clarifications*

- Committees, senates, councils, advisory groups, divisions and constituency groups are a *mainstay* of participatory governance.
- These groups are *empowered* by participatory governance to make formal recommendations on issues before them.

Sec. IV. Participatory Governance: *Policy - Introduction*

- Participatory Governance reflects a *general commitment* on the part of Kapi`olani Community College faculty, staff, students, and administration to work together to strengthen and enhance the College by making decisions about institutional missions, policies and budget priorities through participatory processes.
- Governance includes the structure and processes, both *formal and informal*, of decision-making groups and the relationships between and among these groups and individuals.

Sec IV. Participatory Governance: *Policy - Introduction*

- What distinguishes governance from administrative decisions is that *governance* tends to be early on in the process and *establishes* policy; much of what happens later is administration.
- Kapi`olani Community College is committed to participatory governance, a process that affords the multiple members of the College, through consultation and participation, to have *input* on key decisions through a variety of processes that reflect *democratic principles*.

IV. Kapi`olani Community College

Participatory Governance Policy

- 1. *Any individual or group of individuals on campus may provide their views on any issue important to them.* The College shall inform the faculty, staff, and students of this policy and provide opportunities for faculty, staff, and students to provide input.
- 2. *Administrators shall demonstrate a willingness to incorporate* faculty, staff and student input into decision-making especially relating to academic policies, academic procedures, professional development, and financial and budgetary matters.

IV. Kapi`olani Community College Participatory Governance Policy

- 3. Administrators and other decision makers shall provide *reasons* for decisions that are contrary to the wishes of constituency groups and other recommending bodies.
- 4. A reasonable effort shall be made to *seek input* and to keep all faculty, staff, and students *informed* via the governance structure.

IV. Kapi`olani Community College

Participatory Governance Policy

- 5. *Members of faculty and staff governing bodies and advisory committees shall consider administrative and other faculty and staff initiatives in a collegial and cooperative manner and for the purpose of benefitting the students, the College, the University of Hawai`i system, and the community they serve.*

QUESTIONS / COMMENTS /SUGGESTIONS

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